

Civilisation and Races of Southern Italy 379

Both emperors and popes combined to exalt the splendour of Monte Cassino. In 748, the Pope Zacharias made the abbey first in honour among all the abbeys in the world. The monks were to choose the abbot personally after a vacancy and present their choice to the Pope; the abbey was freed from all jurisdiction save that of Rome itself; no bishop was to celebrate mass in its boundaries except by invitation of the abbot, or claim any authority over its lands and churches,¹

In 1067, a Bull of Alexander II., confirming these privileges, granted to the abbot the right to appear in sandals and dalmatic like a Legate at the great feasts of the Church,

- The great monastery was especially favoured by, and closely attached to, the Western Empire.

In 787, Charles the Great visited the abbey,

confirmed its possessions, and commanded that it was to be looked on as "an Imperial Chamber";

the monks were to be "chaplains" and the abbot "Arch-Chancellor" of the Empire; the latter was to have borne before him the imperial *Labarum*

and gemmed cross of gold, and to drink out of a golden cup, The abbey thus came under the broad wing of the Empire and enjoyed the right

of *Mamburdio* or *Mundoburdium* i, <?,, of
imperial
protection and exemption from every
other do-
minion. Otto II, in 983 reaffirmed the
Mundo-
burdium, decreeing that no gastald, duke,
viscount,
or other should have any jurisdiction
over the

* See Tostl, *Storia della badia di Monte Cassino*
vol. i., p. 83.